



HR0557

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Lonnie Stephenson on  
4 being appointed International President of the International  
5 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW); and

6           WHEREAS, Lonnie Stephenson was born and raised in Rock  
7 Island; and

8           WHEREAS, Lonnie Stephenson began his apprenticeship as an  
9 inside wireman in 1975 and was initiated into IBEW Local Union  
10 145 in 1976; and

11           WHEREAS, Lonnie Stephenson was very active in his local  
12 union early in his career, serving on several committees and  
13 being elected Vice-President in 1984 and President from 1987 to  
14 1992; as President, he implemented many new initiatives within  
15 his local union, including forming an active community service  
16 committee, holding an annual blood drive, and getting the local  
17 union's building recognized as a Red Cross Disaster Center,  
18 which was utilized as such during flooding of the Quad-City  
19 area in 1997; he was appointed Assistant Business Agent in 1991  
20 and was elected Business Manager in 1996; as Business Manager,  
21 he was very aggressive in organizing and his membership grew  
22 from 700 members to over 1,100 during his tenure as Business

1 Manager; one of his proudest moments as Business Manager was  
2 when a nonunion electrician stopped in his office to ask how he  
3 could join the IBEW because it was too strong a union area and  
4 he had to travel for his employer to find work; and

5 WHEREAS, IBEW International President Edwin Hill  
6 recognized Lonnie Stephenson's dedication to the IBEW and  
7 appointed him as an International Representative assigned to  
8 the Sixth District on January 1, 2002; he was soon thereafter  
9 appointed the Organizing Coordinator for the Sixth District and  
10 then Administrative Assistant to then IBEW Sixth District IVP  
11 Joseph (Jeff) Lohman; and

12 WHEREAS, On September 1st, 2010, Lonnie Stephenson was  
13 appointed by President Hill as International Vice-President of  
14 the Sixth District; he was then elected to a 5-year term by the  
15 delegates at the IBEW's 38th International Convention held in  
16 Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in 2011; and

17 WHEREAS, On May 27, 2015, Lonnie Stephenson was appointed  
18 International President of the IBEW effective June 1, 2015;  
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
21 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
22 congratulate Lonnie Stephenson on being appointed

1 International President of the International Brotherhood of  
2 Electrical Workers; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to the Lonnie Stephenson as an expression of our  
5 esteem and respect.